IT WOULD BE FUN TO FLY--
BUT WHAT IF YOU COULD NEVER COME DOWN?
DC
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ALL NEW!
NO. 506
APR.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION
COMICS
THOSE KIDS WILL FLOAT OFF INTO SPACE AND DIE--
--BECAUSE THIS CREATURE WON'T LET ME SAVE THEM!
ANDRU & GIORDANO
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VROOOOMMM

SUPER HEROES* CARS MEAN GREAT FUN THAT FITS IN YOUR POCKET.

Listen. Now you can zoom around town with your favorite SUPER HEROES* vehicles. From Corgi.
See, we wanted to make these cars just the right size (and just the right price) for you. So you can just stick the fun in your pocket and go wherever you want.
'Nuff said?

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corgi

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
SHAME ON YOU, SUPERMAN, FOR TRYING TO FIGHT OUR FURRY FRIEND!
HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP US!
JUST GO AWAY AND LET JORLAN TAKE CARE OF US!
JORLAN HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED TO DOOM EVERY CHILD ON EARTH--
--AND I'M POWERLESS TO STOP IT!
YEARS AGO, JORLAN SOARED ACROSS THE SKIES...THE RED SKIES OF SUPERMAN'S HOME PLANET, KRYPTON! NOW THE CREATURE SUDDENLY APPEARS ON EARTH...BUT ITS CATASTROPHIC MISSION REMAINS THE SAME! MILLIONS OF LIVES HANG IN THE BALANCE AS THE MAN OF STEEL BATTLES OVERWHELMING ODDS AND POWERS TO PREVENT...
"THE CHILDREN'S EXODUS FROM EARTH!"
WRITER: CARY BATES
PENCILLER: CURT SWAN
INKER: FRANK CHIARAMONTE
LETTERER: BEN ODA
COLORIST: ADRIENNE ROY
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

ACTION COMICS ®, (USPS 004-480), Vol. 43 No. 506, April, 1980. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1980 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., DC COMICS INC., 14 Vanderventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate $6.75. Outside U.S.A. $7.75

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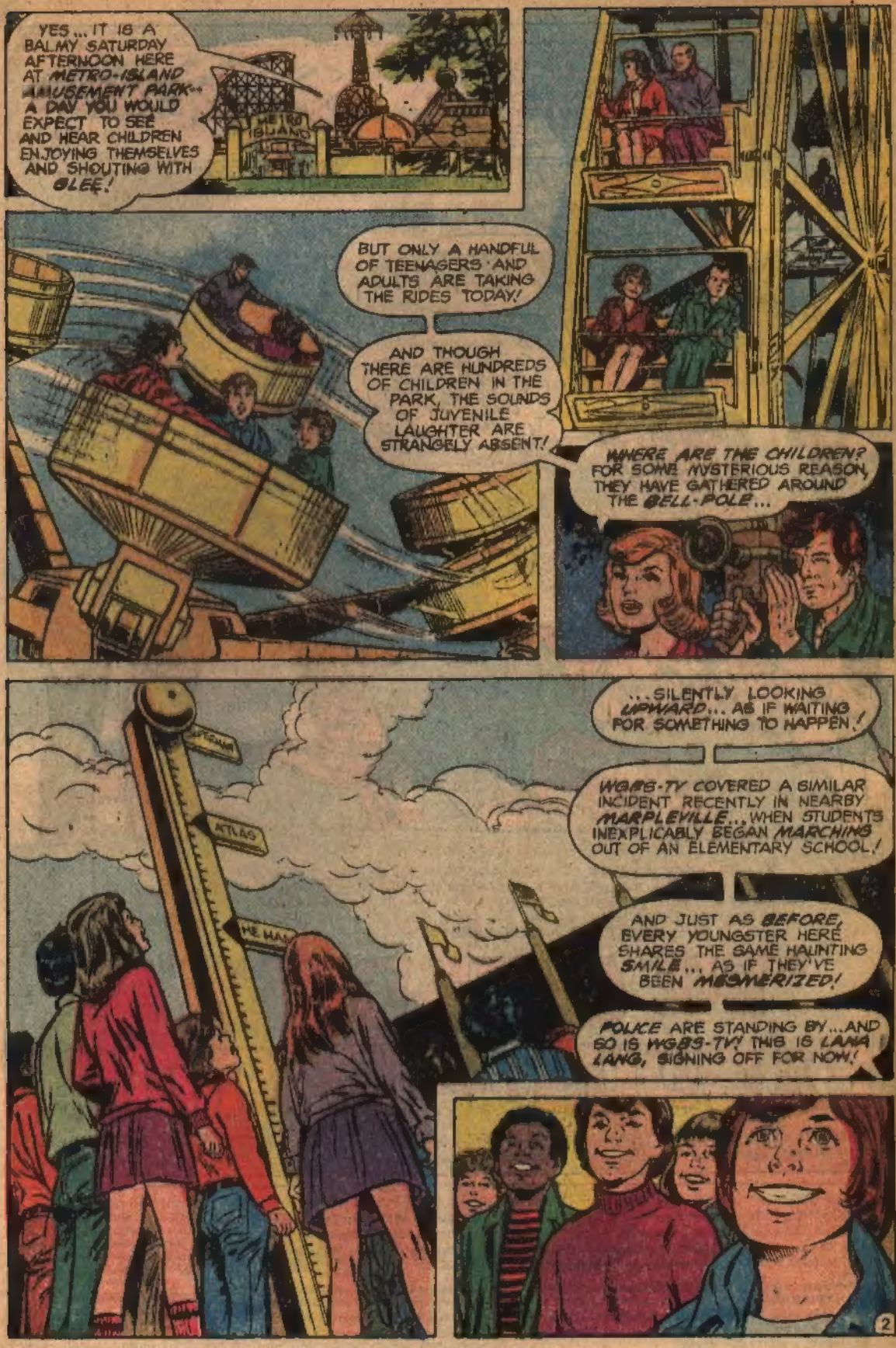
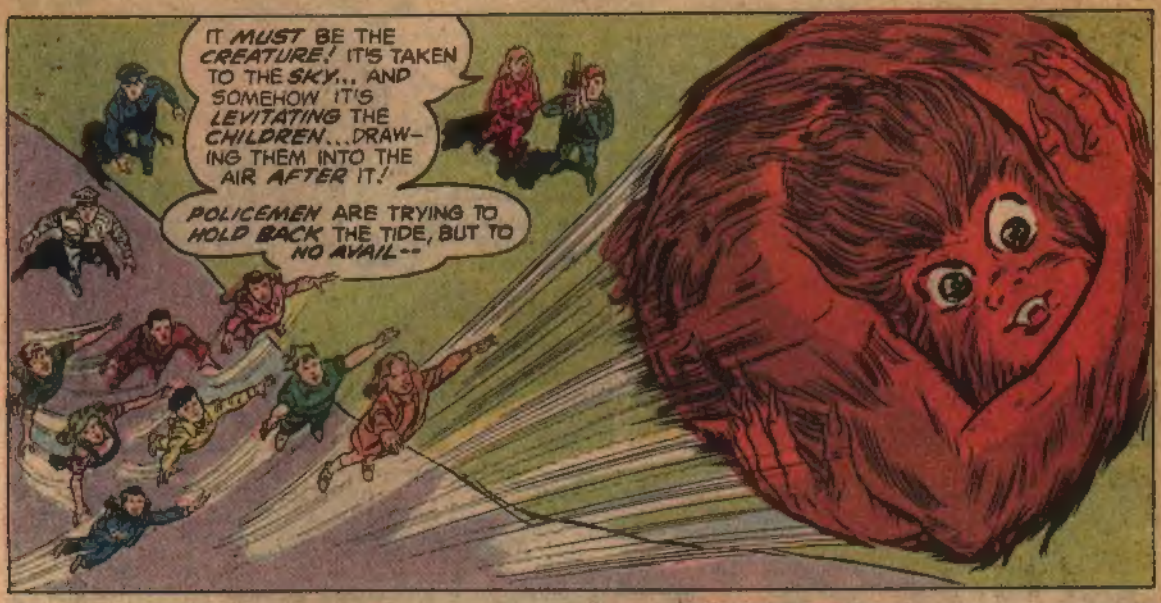

YES... IT IS A BALMY SATURDAY AFTERNOON HERE AT METRO-ISLAND AMUSEMENT PARK... A DAY YOU WOULD EXPECT TO SEE AND HEAR CHILDREN ENJOYING THEMSELVES AND SHOUTING WITH GLEE!
METRO ISLAND
BUT ONLY A HANDFUL OF TEENAGERS AND ADULTS ARE TAKING THE RIDES TODAY!
AND THOUGH THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN IN THE PARK, THE SOUNDS OF JUVENILE LAUGHTER ARE STRANGELY ABSENT!
WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN? FOR SOME MYSTERIOUS REASON, THEY HAVE GATHERED AROUND THE BELL-POLE...
...SILENTLY LOOKING UPWARD... AS IF WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN!
WGBS-TV COVERED A SIMILAR INCIDENT RECENTLY IN NEARBY MARPLEVILLE... WHEN STUDENTS INEXPLICABLY BEGAN MARCHING OUT OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
AND JUST AS BEFORE, EVERY YOUNGSTER HERE SHARES THE SAME HAUNTING SMILE... AS IF THEY'VE BEEN MESMERIZED!
POLICE ARE STANDING BY...AND SO IS WGBS-TV! THIS IS LANA LANG, SIGNING OFF FOR NOW!
ATLAS
2

NICE AND SMOOTH, LANA! WE'LL BE ABLE TO RUN THAT TAPE AS IS!
I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE TIME FOR A BREAK, GANG! TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELVES... UP IN THE SKY!
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT IS THAT-- AN ESCAPED MUPPET?
MORE LIKE A FLYING TEDDY BEAR!
IT'S HEADING FOR THE CHILDREN!
JORLAN JORLAN
JORLAN JORLAN JORLAN
YOU HEAR THAT? THE KIDS SEEM TO RECOGNIZE IT--THEY'RE CHANTING A NAME!
LANA LANG AGAIN, VIEWERS! AS OUR VIDEO TAPE REVEALS, A STRANGE CREATURE HAS JUST ARRIVED ON THE SCENE...
... AND THE YOUNGSTERS ARE LITERALLY GOING WILD! NO LONGER SILENT AND COMPLACENT-- THEY'VE SUDDENLY BEEN SPURRED INTO AN EXCITED FRENZY BY THE BIZARRE BEAST IN THEIR MIDST!
JORLAN JORLAN JORLAN
JORLAN
JORLAN
JORLAN
JORLAN
JORLAN
SO FAR THERE ARE NO--
GOOD HEAVENS! I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE MY EYES, VIEWERS-- BUT AS YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE FOR YOURSELVES--
--SOME OF THE CHILDREN ARE STARTING TO RISE INTO THE AIR!
3


IT MUST BE THE CREATURE! IT'S TAKEN TO THE SKY... AND SOMEHOW IT'S LEVITATING THE CHILDREN...DRAWING THEM INTO THE AIR AFTER IT!
POLICEMEN ARE TRYING TO HOLD BACK THE TIDE, BUT TO NO AVAIL--

--THE MYSTERIOUS POWER THIS BEAST RADIATES IS OVERWHELMING!
BOYS AND GIRLS ARE TAKING TO THE SKY BY THE SCORES NOW--HELPLESS TO RESIST THE GRIP OF THIS FUR-COVERED "PIED PIPER"!

WHAT IS TO BE THEIR DESTINATION? CAN THESE INNOCENT CHILDREN BE SAVED FROM WHATEVER FATE AND THIS UNCANNY CREATURE HAVE IN STORE FOR THEM?
ONLY ONE MAN CAN POSSIBLY PUT A STOP TO THIS MADNESS...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE TO FOLLOWING

ADVERTISEMENT

Wonder Woman™ in "THE BORROWER"
BE CAREFUL WITH THAT BAG, MISS. SOMEONE MIGHT WANT TO BORROW IT!
MY I.O.U.!
MY BAG!
I'D LIKE TO BORROW $250 MILLION.
THE 20-DIAMOND BRACELET FOR ME--FOR YOU, MY SIGNATURE!
HE JUST DISAPPEARS INTO THE CROWDS. HOW CAN I STOP HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR WONDER WOMAN TO PUT HIM ON PERMANENT LOAN TO THE LOCAL JAIL?
I'VE GOT IT!
ITZ FURS
ARE THESE THE SAME TWINKIES® I BORROWED AS A BOY?
THE SAME! THE SAME CREAMED FILLING! THE SAME GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE! I'LL SIGN FOR THESE!
MY SIGNATURE, BORROWER!
AH, WONDER WOMAN, PERHAPS YOU COULD HELP ARRANGE FOR ME TO BORROW THE HOSTESS® CAKE BAKERY?
Twinkies
Twinkies
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE of HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES!

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GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.

The first thing to do—pick the right chew: Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.

Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
90°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
Knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

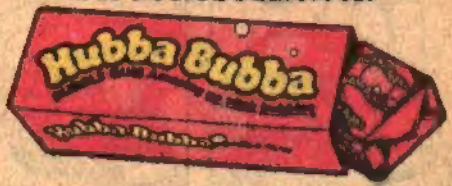
The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum—Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

So pick up a pack of Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavor. Enjoy that soft, juicy, delicious taste. Plus those great, big Hubba Bubba bubbles that won't stick to your face.

SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.



BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

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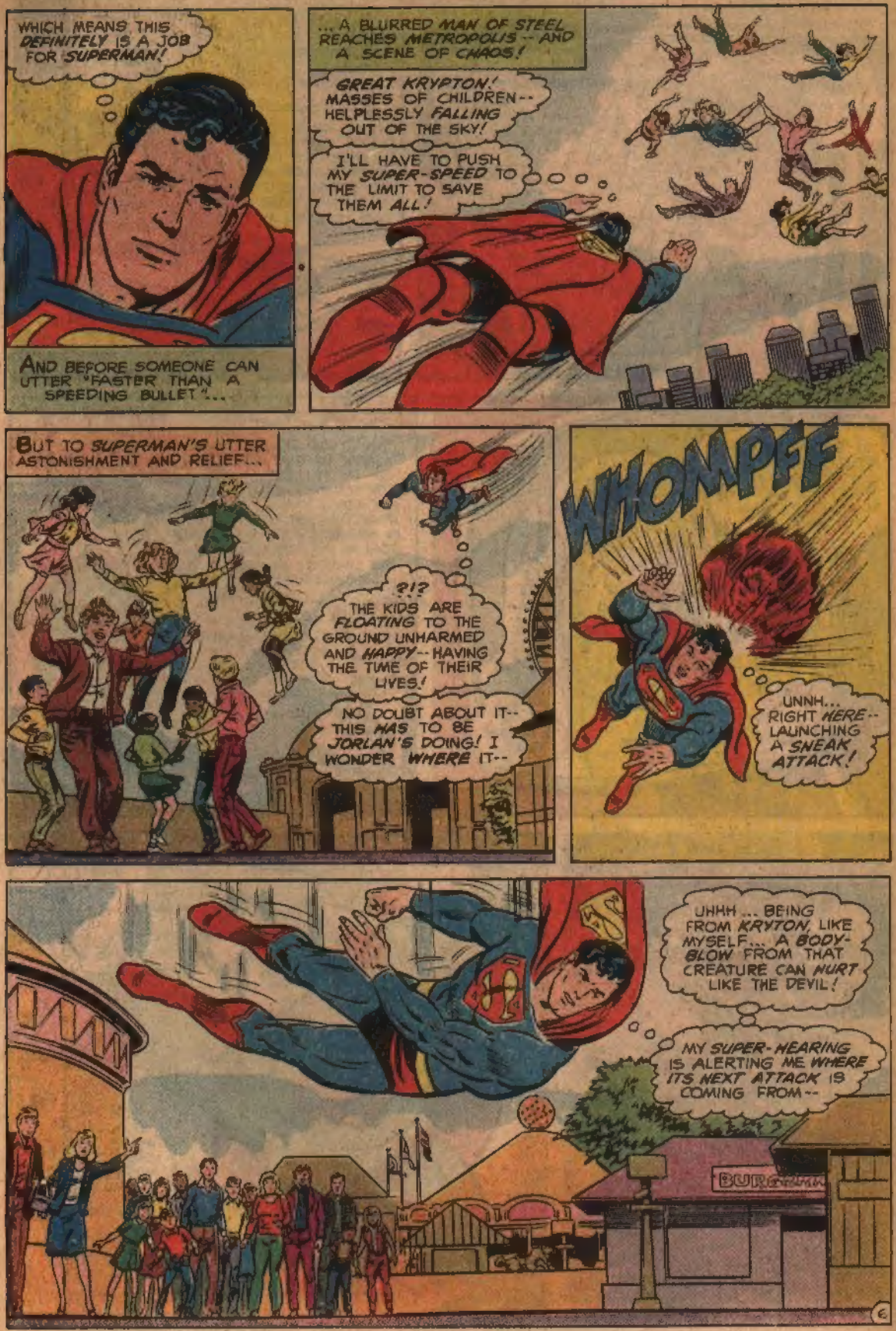
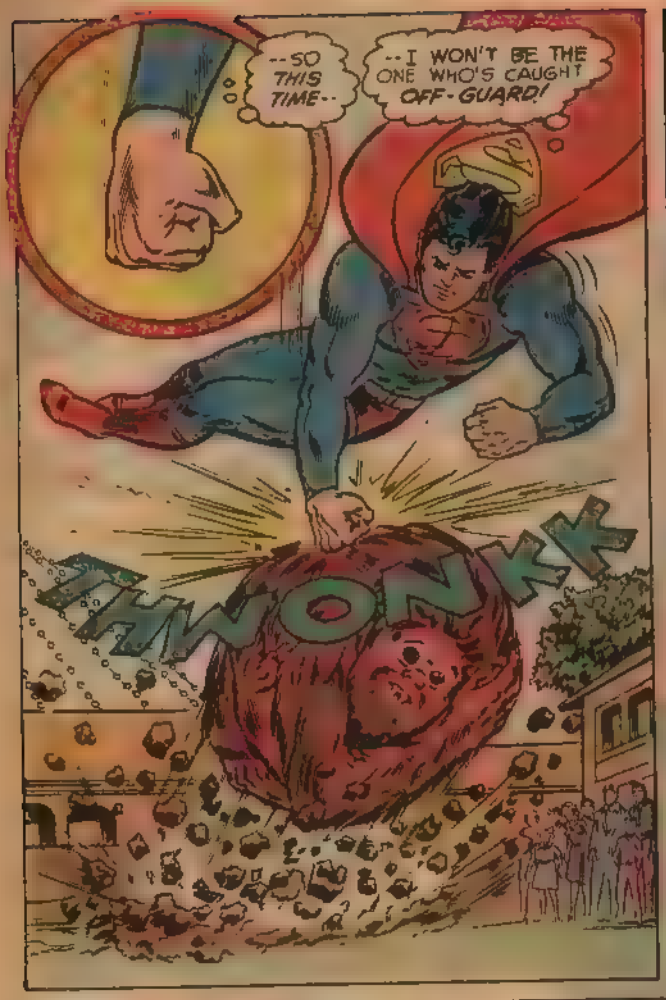
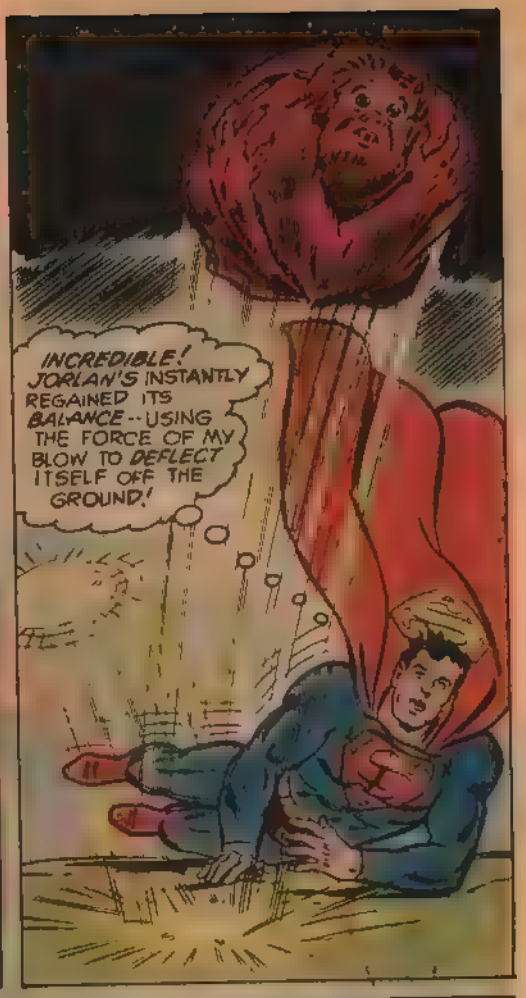
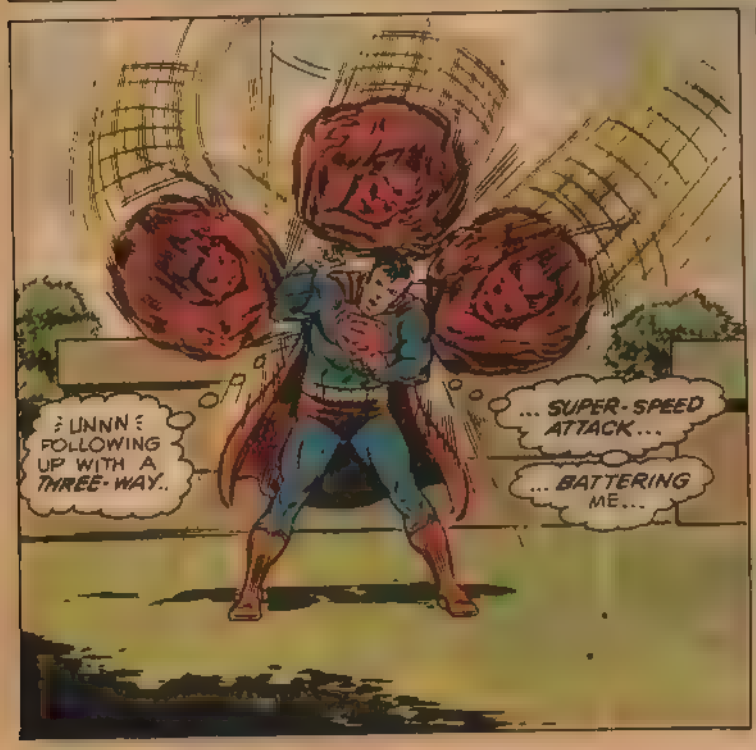
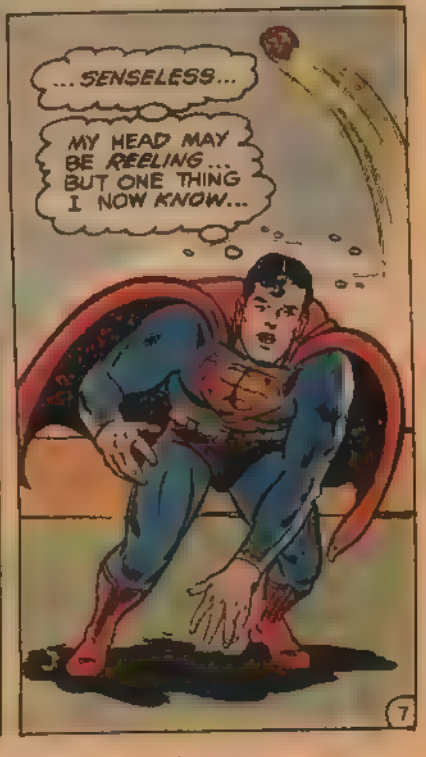
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES TO THE NORTH...
YOU DESPERATELY NEED ME, SUPERMAN! HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS CAN I SAY IT?
JORLAN IS MY CREATION... AND ONLY TOGETHER CAN YOU AND I HOPE TO DEFEAT IT!
YOU MUST RELEASE ME FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE — NOW!
ON YOUR SAY-SO, ORN-ZU? I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE THE WORD OF A CONDEMNED CRIMINAL AT FACE VALUE?
ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT THIS CREATURE IS KRYPTONIAN--AND AS SUPER AS I AM! WHAT ELSE CAN YOU TELL ME?
IN THIS PHANTOM ZONE, WE PRISONERS CAN SEE AND HEAR WHATEVER HAPPENS IN YOUR PHYSICAL WORLD...
I KNOW THAT--
BRZZZZ... BRZZZ... BRZZZ...
WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW IS THAT ONE OF MY FELLOW PRISONERS IS GLOATING OVER WHAT HE JUST SAW IN METROPOLIS-- JORLAN JEOPARDIZING THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN!
THAT SOUND-- IT'S THE ALARM HOOKED INTO MY NETWORK OF ORBITING SATELLITE MONITORS!
BRZZZZ... BRZZZZ...
IT'S BUZZING THE CODE FOR METROPOLIS!
IT COULD MEAN THAT ORN-ZU'S WARNING WAS NO BLUFF!
9


WHICH MEANS THIS DEFINITELY IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
AND BEFORE SOMEONE CAN UTTER "FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET"...
... A BLURRED MAN OF STEEL REACHES METROPOLIS -- AND A SCENE OF CHAOS!
GREAT KRYPTON! MASSES OF CHILDREN -- HELPLESSLY FALLING OUT OF THE SKY!
I'LL HAVE TO PUSH MY SUPER-SPEED TO THE LIMIT TO SAVE THEM ALL!
BUT TO SUPERMAN'S UTTER ASTONISHMENT AND RELIEF...
?!?
THE KIDS ARE FLOATING TO THE GROUND UNHARMED AND HAPPY -- HAVING THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT -- THIS HAS TO BE JORLAN'S DOING! I WONDER WHERE IT --
WHOMPFF
UNNH... RIGHT HERE -- LAUNCHING A SNEAK ATTACK!
UHHH ... BEING FROM KRYTON, LIKE MYSELF... A BODY-BLOW FROM THAT CREATURE CAN HURT LIKE THE DEVIL!
MY SUPER-HEARING IS ALERTING ME WHERE ITS NEXT ATTACK IS COMING FROM --


--SO THIS TIME--
--I WON'T BE THE ONE WHO'S CAUGHT OFF-GUARD!
TWONKK


INCREDIBLE! JORLAN'S INSTANTLY REGAINED ITS BALANCE--USING THE FORCE OF MY BLOW TO DEFLECT ITSELF OFF THE GROUND!


UNNN FOLLOWING UP WITH A THREE-WAY..
... SUPER-SPEED ATTACK...
... BATTERING ME...


... SENSELESS...
MY HEAD MAY BE REELING... BUT ONE THING I NOW KNOW...

...I'VE SEEN JORLAH ONCE BEFORE... YEARS AGO!
WHAT MADE YOU PICK A FIGHT WITH JORLAH, SUPERMAN? DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S OUR FRIEND?
IT WAS JUST GIVING US A SKY-RIDE, THAT'S ALL!
JORLAH WOULD NEVER HURT US! NEVER EVER!
BUT- BUT IT ATTACKED ME..
SUMMONING FORTH HIS INCREDIBLE STAMINA--IGNORNING HIS SHATTERED PRYDE AND BODY--THE ACTION ACE ZOOMS SKYWARD..
THOSE POLICEMEN WILL SEE THAT THE CHILDREN ARE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES!
THEY'RE SAFE... BUT ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
THEN, BACK AT HIS ARCTIC FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
I DOUBT YOU SAW JORLAH WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, SUPERMAN--THOUGH YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO LURE!
THIS DISTANT MEMORY OF YOUR CREATURE IS NO HALLUCINATION, ORN-ZU--IT HAD TO COME FROM SOMEWHERE!
PERHAPS THIS IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO HEAR THE FULL STORY OF MY INDESTRUCTIBLE ANDROID CREATION--
WHILE YOU SIT THERE NURSING THE BRUISES IT INFLICTED ON YOU!
YOU'VE GOT MY FULL ATTENTION, ORN-ZU!
VERY WELL! I'M SURE YOU WILL BE ASTOUNDED TO LEARN THAT YOUR FATHER AND I SHARE SOMETHING IN THE ANNALS OF KRYPTONIAN HISTORY--
--WE BOTH PREDICTED KRYTON'S DOOM!
ONLY MY PREDICTION PROVED TO BE INCORRECT!
8

Hey Kids, have as much fun in Fruit Stripe Land as you do chewing Fruit Stripe Gum.

Q: There are two delicious Fruit Stripe Gums to choose from. What are they?

A: Fruit Stripe Regular and Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum

Q: Why do we put all those wild, colorful fruity stripes on every single stick?

A: To show you that cheese-licious fruity Fruit Stripe Flavor.

Q: There's a whole herd of flavors inside every pack. How many can you find?

A: Lemon, Orange, Cherry Lime Grape and Bubble Gum flavor, too

Q: What are the four different kinds of big, juicy easy-to-blow bubbles?

A: Cherry, Grape, Lemon and Bubble Gum.

It sure was fun galloping through Fruit Stripe Land with you

Regular and Bubble Gum

Fruit Stripe Gum

means

Fruit Stripe Fun

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ANY 4 FOR $3.00
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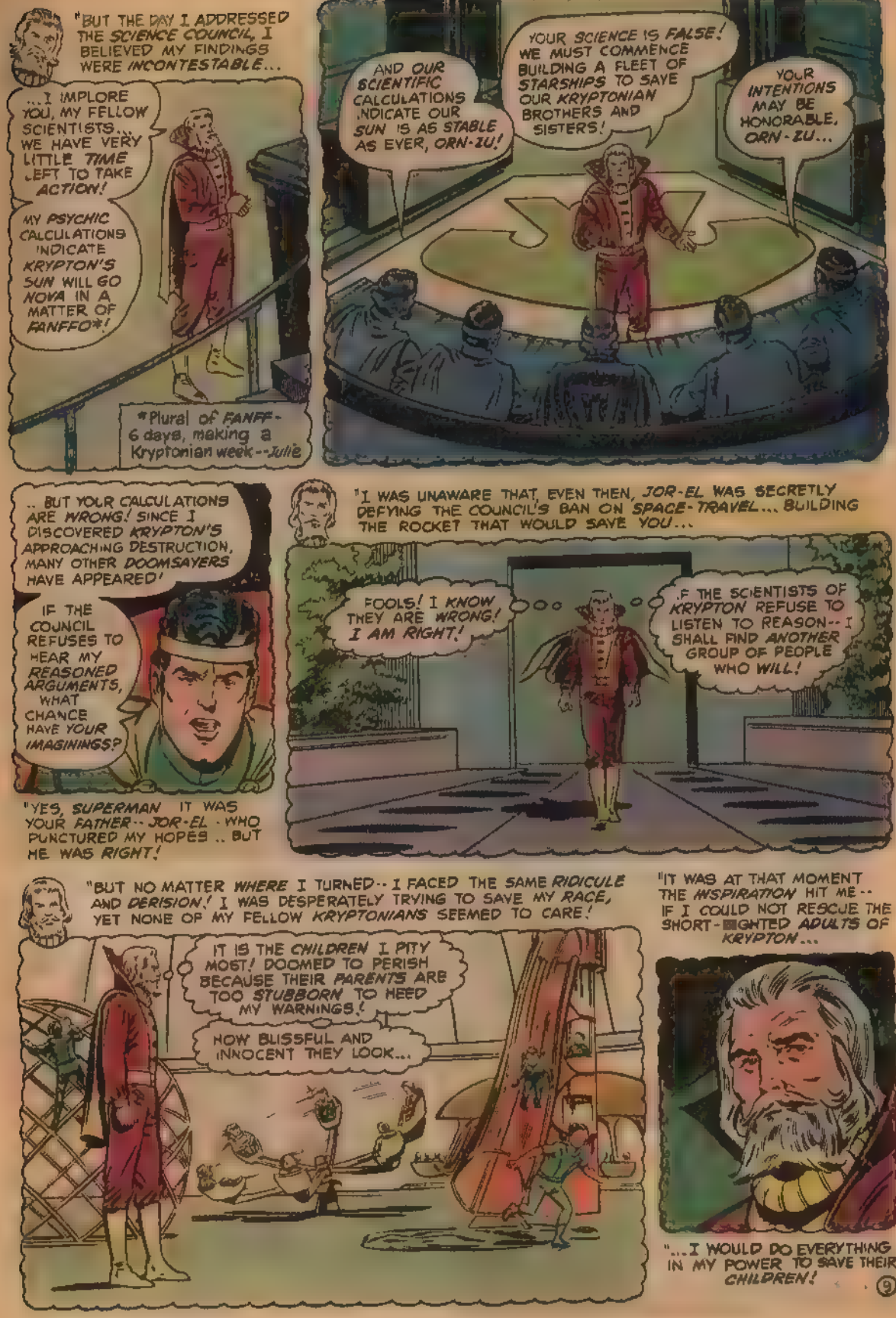
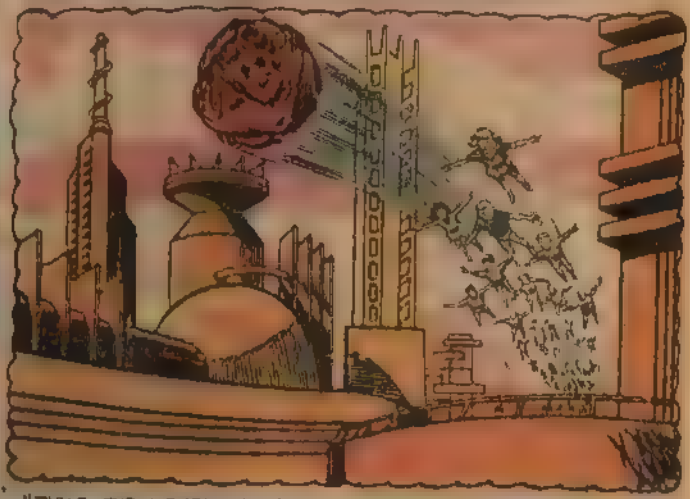

"BUT THE DAY I ADDRESSED THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, I BELIEVED MY FINDINGS WERE INCONTESTABLE...
...I IMPLORE YOU, MY FELLOW SCIENTISTS... WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT TO TAKE ACTION!
MY PSYCHIC CALCULATIONS INDICATE KRYPTON'S SUN WILL GO NOVA IN A MATTER OF FANFFO*!
*Plural of FANFF- 6 days, making a Kryptonian week--Julie
AND OUR SCIENTIFIC CALCULATIONS INDICATE OUR SUN IS AS STABLE AS EVER, ORN-ZU!
YOUR SCIENCE IS FALSE! WE MUST COMMENCE BUILDING A FLEET OF STARSHIPS TO SAVE OUR KRYPTONIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS!
YOUR INTENTIONS MAY BE HONORABLE, ORN-ZU...
.. BUT YOUR CALCULATIONS ARE WRONG! SINCE I DISCOVERED KRYPTON'S APPROACHING DESTRUCTION, MANY OTHER DOOMSAYERS HAVE APPEARED!
IF THE COUNCIL REFUSES TO HEAR MY REASONED ARGUMENTS, WHAT CHANCE HAVE YOUR IMAGININGS?
"YES, SUPERMAN IT WAS YOUR FATHER-- JOR-EL - WHO PUNCTURED MY HOPES .. BUT HE WAS RIGHT!
"I WAS UNAWARE THAT, EVEN THEN, JOR-EL WAS SECRETLY DEFYING THE COUNCIL'S BAN ON SPACE-TRAVEL... BUILDING THE ROCKET THAT WOULD SAVE YOU...
FOOLS! I KNOW THEY ARE WRONG! I AM RIGHT!
IF THE SCIENTISTS OF KRYPTON REFUSE TO LISTEN TO REASON-- I SHALL FIND ANOTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WILL!
"BUT NO MATTER WHERE I TURNED-- I FACED THE SAME RIDICULE AND DERISION! I WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAVE MY RACE, YET NONE OF MY FELLOW KRYPTONIANS SEEMED TO CARE!
IT IS THE CHILDREN I PITY MOST! DOOMED TO PERISH BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS ARE TOO STUBBORN TO HEED MY WARNINGS!
HOW BLISSFUL AND INNOCENT THEY LOOK...
"IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THE INSPIRATION HIT ME-- IF I COULD NOT RESCUE THE SHORT-SIGHTED ADULTS OF KRYPTON...
"...I WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SAVE THEIR CHILDREN!

"THAT MEANT CREATING *JORLAN*-- A HARMLESS LOOKING *ANDROID* DESIGNED TO EXERT AN IRRESISTIBLE *HYPNOTIC ATTRACTION* OVER *CHILDREN*...

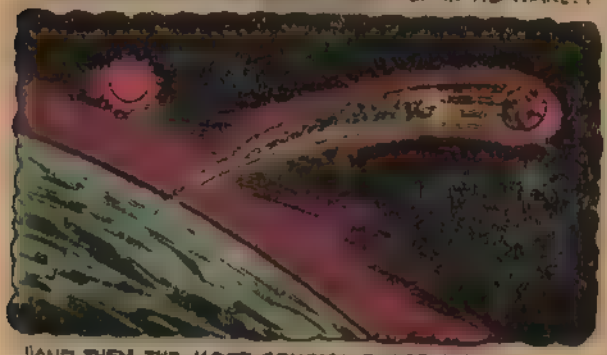
"YET I BUILT *JORLAN* TO BE INCREDIBLY *POWERFUL* AND *DEADLY* IF NECESSARY -- IN CASE ANY MEDDLING *ADULTS* ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE WITH ITS *MISSION*!

'THE *MISSION*-- TO ROUND UP THE CHILDREN OF OUR DOOMED RACE -- USING *HYPNO-FORCE* TO ACTIVATE THE UNTAPPED *TELEKINETIC POWER* IN THEIR BRAINS..



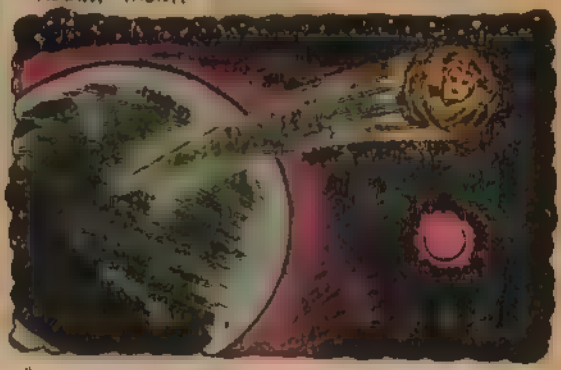
"THUS THE *KRYPTONIAN YOUTH* WOULD BEGIN *LEVITATING* INTO THE AIR IN PURSUIT OF THEIR IRRESISTIBLE *LEADER*!

'MY *PLAN* WAS BASICALLY *SIMPLE*-- *JORLAN* WOULD CONTINUE ORBITING *KRYPTON* UNTIL *ALL* OUR CHILDREN HAD BEEN SWEPT UP IN ITS WAKE..



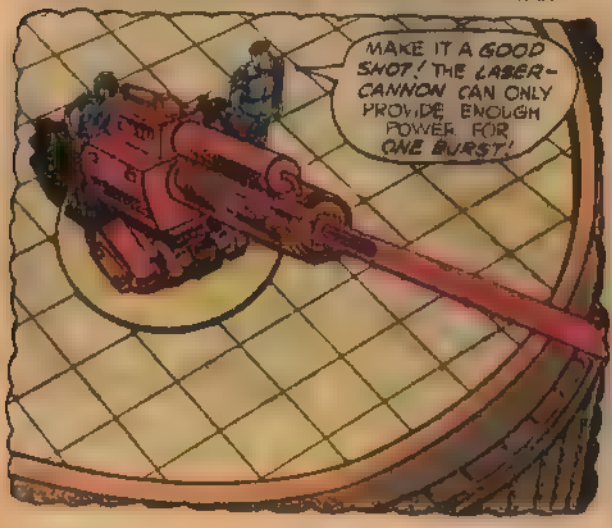
"AND THEN THE MOST *CRUCIAL PHASE* WOULD COMMENCE -- *JORLAN* WOULD INSTANTLY *ACCELERATE* AND WHISK THE CHILDREN INTO A *SPACE-WARP* ..IT WOULD CREATE ...

'... THUS TAKING THEM TO A *YELLOW SUN-SYSTEM* IN A MATTER OF MICRO-SECONDS -- WHERE THEY WOULD BECOME *INVULNERABLE* BEFORE THE EXTREMES OF OUTER SPACE COULD *HARM* THEM!

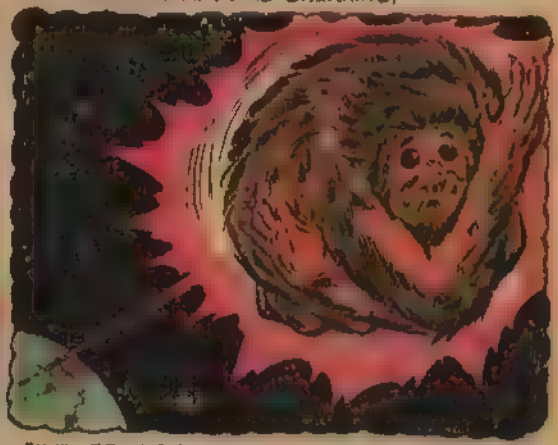


"BUT *FATE* DECREED MY *PLAN* WAS *NOT* TO BE...

FATE.. AND THE *SCIENCE COUNCIL'S SPACE* BAN!



..IT WAS AN *ULTRA-INTENSE* LASER SHOT... AND THE GUNNER'S AIM WAS *UNERRING*!



"THE *RESULTS* WERE INSTANTANEOUS AND DEVASTATING ...

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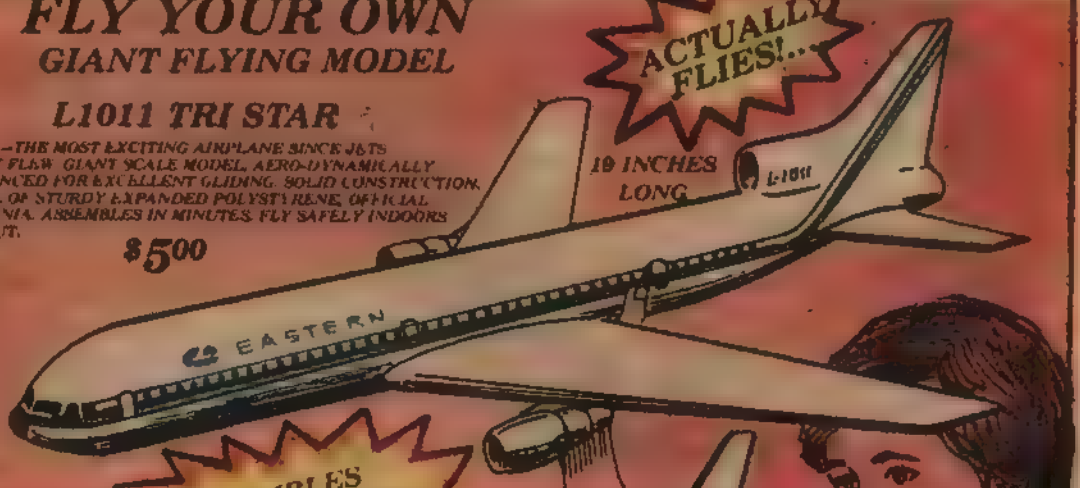
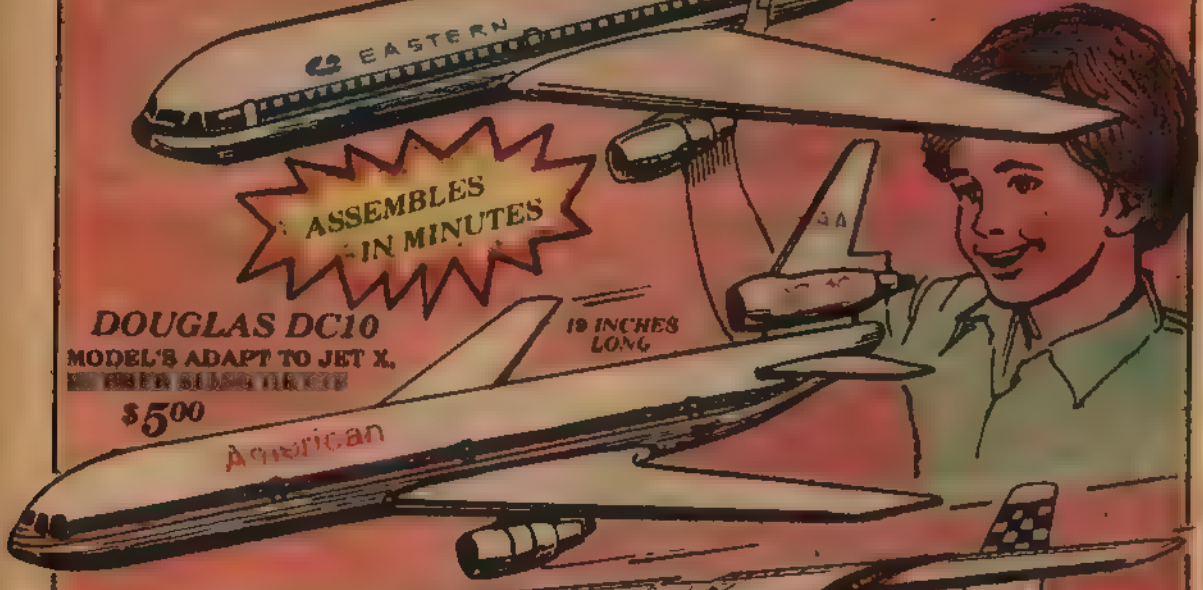


ASSEMBLES IN MINUTES



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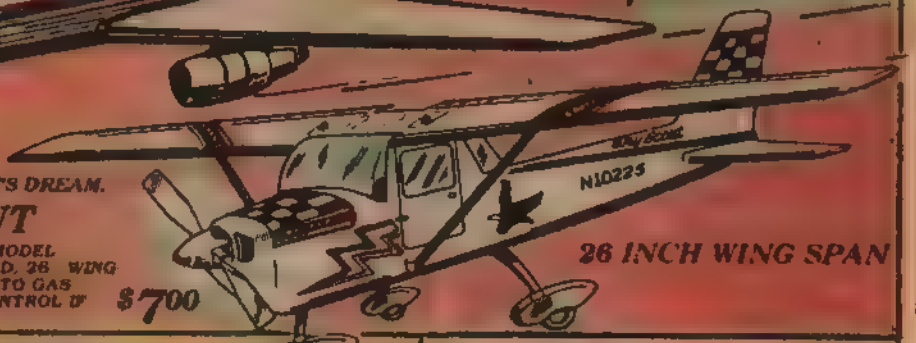

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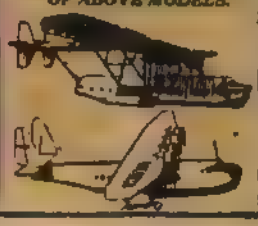

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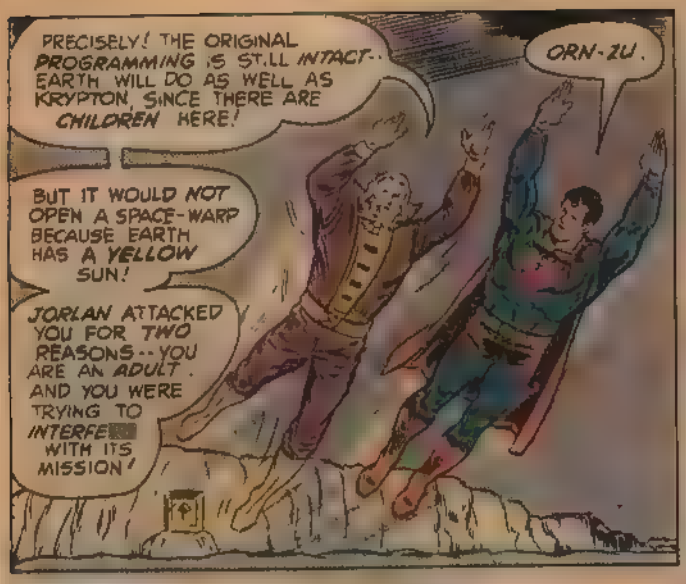
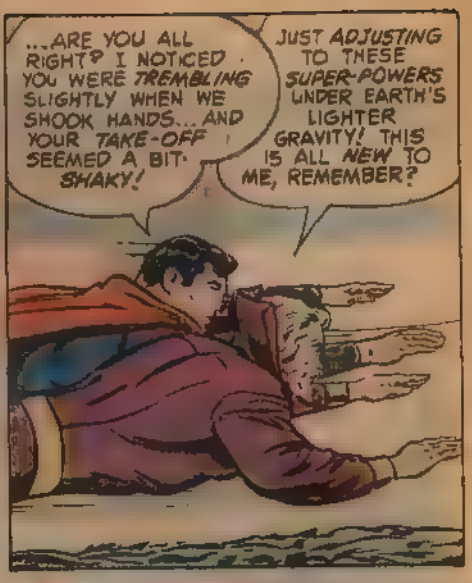
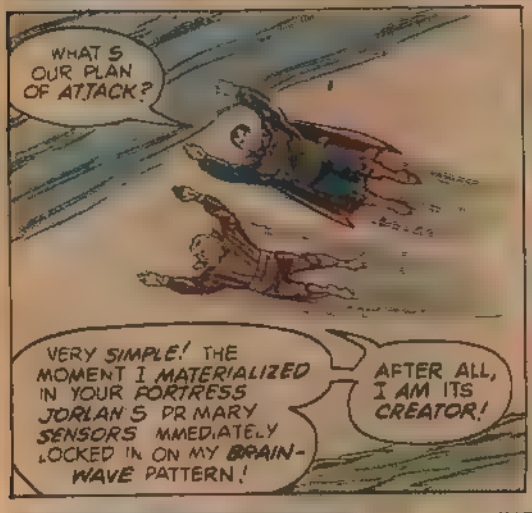
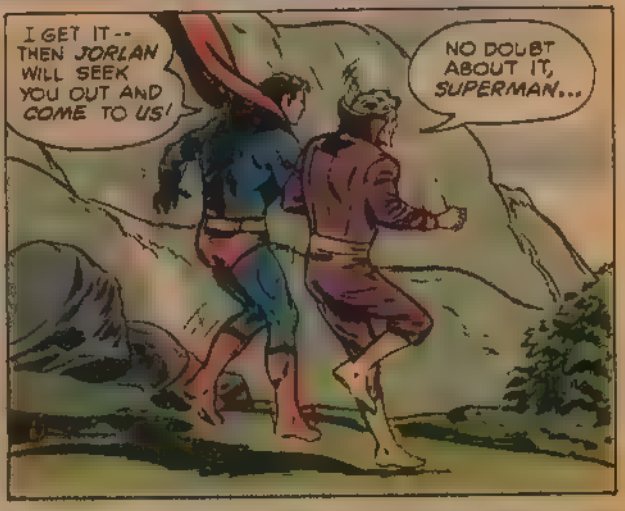
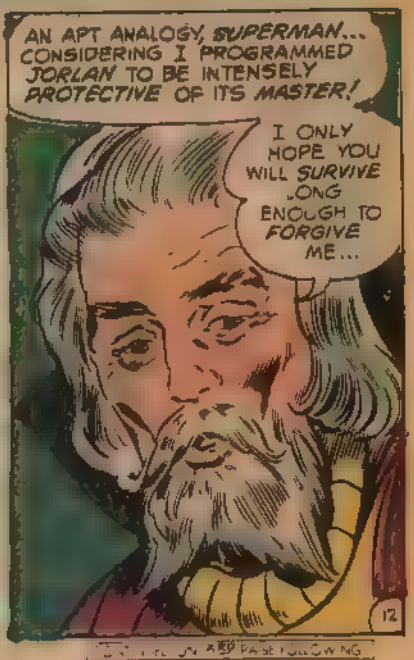
BY THE TIME THE ANDROID MANAGES TO STABILIZE ITSELF IT WILL BE LOST AND DISORIENTED--UNABLE TO FIND ITS WAY BACK!
SO WILL WE DEAL WITH ALL WHO DARE TO TRY SPACE-TRAVEL!
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS BRANDED A HEINOUS CRIMINAL BY THE SCIENCE COUNCIL! MY TRIAL WAS SWIFT! MY SENTENCE--AN ETERNITY IN THE PHANTOM ZONE!
"NOW YOU KNOW THE FULL STORY, SUPERMAN .. AND THE DECISION YOU FACE!"
WILL YOU TRUST ME--RELEASE ME FROM THE ZONE SO I CAN STOP MY CREATION IN THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE--
--OR WILL YOU REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF THE COUNCIL--BRAND ME A CRIMINAL--AND THEREBY DOOM EVERY CHILD ON EARTH?
THE DECISION IS YOURS!
I'VE ALREADY MADE IT, ORN-ZU!
I ONLY PRAY IT'S THE RIGHT ONE--FOR YOUR SAKE AS WELL AS EARTH'S!
AN INSTANT LATER, A PHANTOM FADES FROM THE ZONE VIEWER.. AND A SOLID SUPER-KRYPTONIAN APPEARS BEFORE THE ACTION AGE...
REST ASSURED, SUPERMAN... MY WORDS WERE SINCERE! MY ONLY PURPOSE HERE IS TO ASSIST YOU!
BUT WE MUST HURRY! THERE IS VERY LITTLE TIME!
JORLAN'S FIRST TWO ENCOUNTERS--WITH THE CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL AND METRO-ISLAND--WERE MERELY PRACTICE RUNS!
YOU MEAN IT INTENDS TO LURE EVERY CHILD OFF THE EARTH--JUST AS IT WAS SUPPOSED TO DO ON KRYPTON?


PRECISELY! THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING IS STILL INTACT-- EARTH WILL DO AS WELL AS KRYPTON, SINCE THERE ARE CHILDREN HERE!
ORN-ZU.
BUT IT WOULD NOT OPEN A SPACE-WARP BECAUSE EARTH HAS A YELLOW SUN!
JORLAN ATTACKED YOU FOR TWO REASONS--YOU ARE AN ADULT. AND YOU WERE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH ITS MISSION!


...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I NOTICED YOU WERE TREMBLING SLIGHTLY WHEN WE SHOOK HANDS... AND YOUR TAKE-OFF SEEMED A BIT SHAKY!
JUST ADJUSTING TO THESE SUPER-POWERS UNDER EARTH'S LIGHTER GRAVITY! THIS IS ALL NEW TO ME, REMEMBER?


WHAT'S OUR PLAN OF ATTACK?
VERY SIMPLE! THE MOMENT I MATERIALIZED IN YOUR FORTRESS JORLAN'S PRIMARY SENSORS IMMEDIATELY LOCKED IN ON MY BRAIN-WAVE PATTERN!
AFTER ALL, I AM ITS CREATOR!




AN APT ANALOGY, SUPERMAN... CONSIDERING I PROGRAMMED JORLAN TO BE INTENSELY PROTECTIVE OF ITS MASTER!
I ONLY HOPE YOU WILL SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FORGIVE ME...
12

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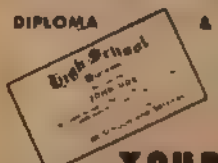

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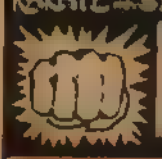

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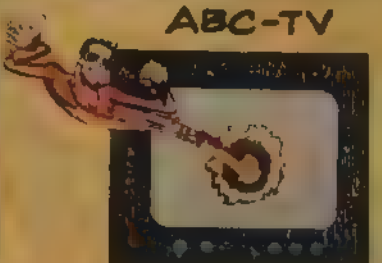

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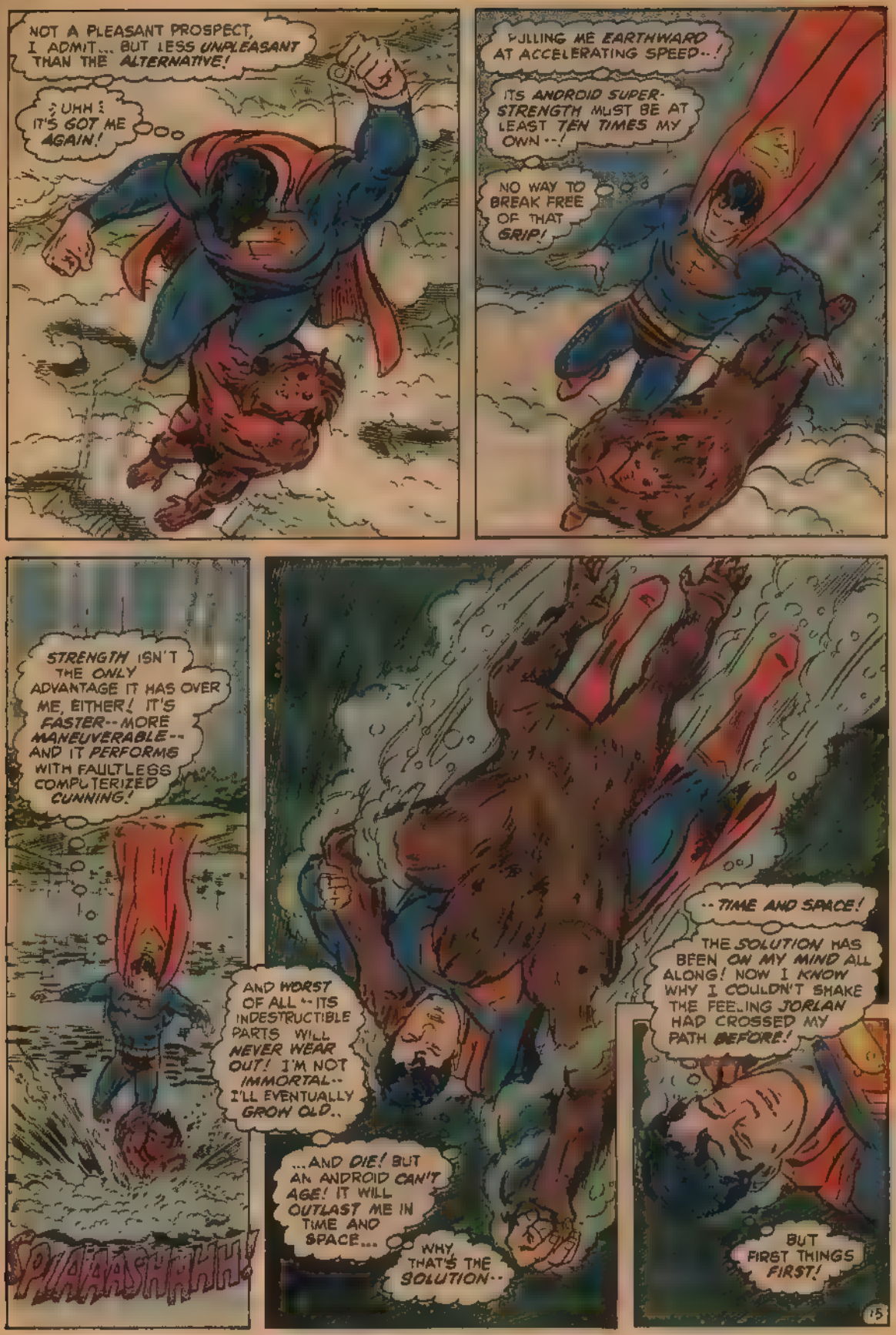
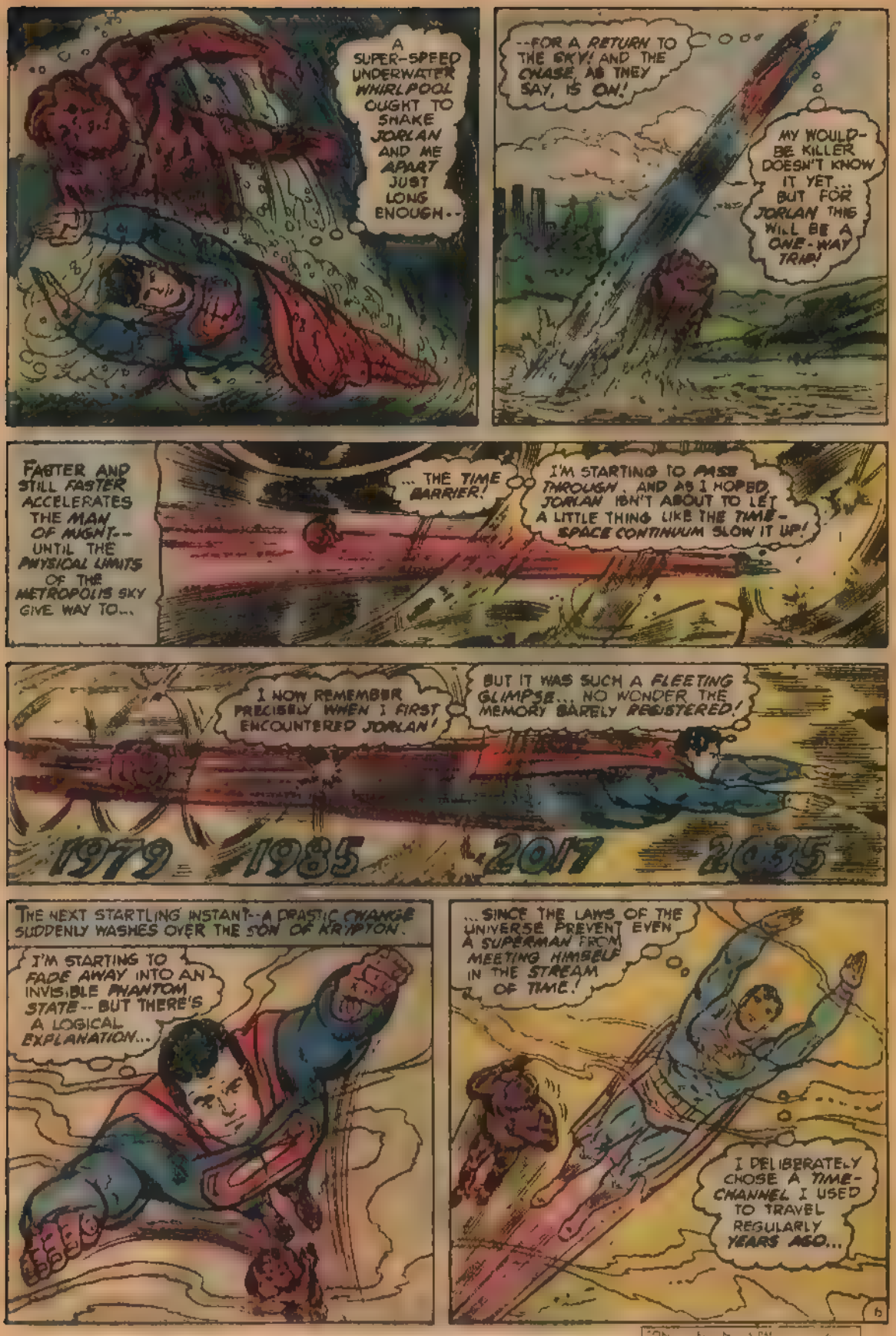
OOOFFF!
ORN! WHAT IS THIS-?
HE USED SUPER-SUCTION BREATH TO PULL MY FIST INTO HIS FACE-- MAKING IT LOOK LIKE I PUNCHED HIM!
AND AS A BEWILDERED MAN OF MIGHT KNEELS AT THE SIDE OF HIS FALLEN FELLOW KRYPTONIAN...
I LEFT OUT ONE DETAIL IN MY STORY, SUPERMAN! I WAS NEAR DEATH THE DAY I WAS PROJECTED INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE...
...SUFFERING THE FINAL THROES OF PYTHAGRA FEVER! I MANAGED TO KEEP IT SECRET DURING THE TRIAL--
PYTHAGRA FEVER! BUT--
NO DANGER TO YOU--IT IS NOT CONTAGIOUS! BUT --NEXT TO VIRUS X-- IT WAS KRYPTON'S DEADLIEST DISEASE ... AND INCURABLE!
YOU KNEW DEATH WAS ONLY MINUTES AWAY-- AND STILL YOU ASKED TO BE RELEASED FROM THE ZONE? BUT WHY--?
I AM JORLAN'S MASTER... AND IT SAW YOU "ATTACK" ME!
A MOMENT... FROM NOW... WHEN I DIE... AND MY BRAIN-WAVES CEASE . ITS LOGIC TRIODES WILL CONCLUDE YOU KILLED ME!
AN AUTOMATIC OVERRIDE CIRCUIT WILL THEN LOCK IN...
.. COMMANDING IT TO ANNIHILATE YOU FIRST-- BEFORE IT CAN CARRY OUT ITS MISSION AND LURE EARTH'S CHILDREN TO THEIR DEATHS IN OUTER SPACE!
AS LONG AS YOU CAN AVOID JORLAN'S LETHAL GRASP-- THE YOUTHS OF EARTH WILL BE SAFE!
I TRUST YOU TRULY ARE A SUPERMAN, MY FRIEND... FOR YOU MAY HAVE TO LET JORLAN PURSUE YOU THROUGH TIME AND SPACE FOR AN ENDLESS ETERNITY...
..FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN-- ;GASP!
HE'S GONE!
13

ALREADY I SENSE A CHANGE COMING OVER JORLAN... ITS SENSORS MUST INDICATE ITS CREATOR'S BRAIN-WAVES HAVE STOPPED!
I'VE JUST BEEN FRAMED FOR A "MURDER" I DIDN'T COMMIT!
AND JUST AS ORN-ZU PROMISED -- JORLAN'S PRE-PROGRAMMED CAPACITY FOR REVENGE IS OVERRIDING ALL ITS OTHER CIRCUITS!
ITS ONLY FUNCTION NOW IS TO BRING ABOUT MY DESTRUCTION!
DESPITE HIS MISTAKES, ORN MIGHT HAVE SAVED MILLIONS OF KRYPTONIAN CHILDREN, IF NOT FOR THE SCIENCE COUNCIL!
THWOKK
BUT THE PUNISHMENT THEY DECREED PERMITTED A DYING MAN TO OUTLIVE THEM ALL -- AND GIVE HIS LIFE HEROICALLY TO SAVE MILLIONS OF EARTH CHILDREN!
NOW THE REST IS UP TO ME!
MY KRYPTONIAN FOE IS JUST AS SUPER AS I AM... AND JUST AS I COULDN'T SMASH IT ON KRYPTON, SO I CAN'T DO SO ON EARTH!
MAYBE ORN-ZU WAS RIGHT...
...MAYBE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN KEEP JORLAN FROM LURING EARTH'S CHILDREN TO AN OUTER-SPACE DOOM --
-- BY LEADING THE ANDROID ON A NEVER-ENDING CHASE BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE UNIVERSE!


NOT A PLEASANT PROSPECT, I ADMIT... BUT LESS UNPLEASANT THAN THE ALTERNATIVE!
UHH! IT'S GOT ME AGAIN!
PULLING ME EARTHWARD AT ACCELERATING SPEED--!
ITS ANDROID SUPER-STRENGTH MUST BE AT LEAST TEN TIMES MY OWN--!
NO WAY TO BREAK FREE OF THAT GRIP!
STRENGTH ISN'T THE ONLY ADVANTAGE IT HAS OVER ME, EITHER! IT'S FASTER--MORE MANEUVERABLE--AND IT PERFORMS WITH FAULTLESS COMPUTERIZED CUNNING!
SPLAAASHHH!
AND WORST OF ALL--ITS INDESTRUCTIBLE PARTS WILL NEVER WEAR OUT! I'M NOT IMMORTAL--I'LL EVENTUALLY GROW OLD..
...AND DIE! BUT AN ANDROID CAN'T AGE! IT WILL OUTLAST ME IN TIME AND SPACE...
WHY, THAT'S THE SOLUTION--
--TIME AND SPACE!
THE SOLUTION HAS BEEN ON MY MIND ALL ALONG! NOW I KNOW WHY I COULDN'T SHAKE THE FEELING JORLAN HAD CROSSED MY PATH BEFORE!
BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST!


A SUPER-SPEED UNDERWATER WHIRLPOOL OUGHT TO SHAKE JORLAN AND ME APART JUST LONG ENOUGH--
--FOR A RETURN TO THE SKY! AND THE CHASE, AS THEY SAY, IS ON!
MY WOULD-BE KILLER DOESN'T KNOW IT YET... BUT FOR JORLAN THIS WILL BE A ONE-WAY TRIP!
FASTER AND STILL FASTER ACCELERATES THE MAN OF MIGHT-- UNTIL THE PHYSICAL LIMITS OF THE METROPOLIS SKY GIVE WAY TO...
... THE TIME BARRIER!
I'M STARTING TO PASS THROUGH... AND AS I HOPED, JORLAN ISN'T ABOUT TO LET A LITTLE THING LIKE THE TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM SLOW IT UP!
I NOW REMEMBER PRECISELY WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED JORLAN!
BUT IT WAS SUCH A FLEETING GLIMPSE... NO WONDER THE MEMORY BARELY REGISTERED!
1979
1985
2017
2035
THE NEXT STARTLING INSTANT--A DRASTIC CHANGE SUDDENLY WASHES OVER THE SON OF KRYPTON.
I'M STARTING TO FADE AWAY INTO AN INVISIBLE PHANTOM STATE-- BUT THERE'S A LOGICAL EXPLANATION...
... SINCE THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE PREVENT EVEN A SUPERMAN FROM MEETING HIMSELF IN THE STREAM OF TIME!
I DELIBERATELY CHOSE A TIME-CHANNEL I USED TO TRAVEL REGULARLY YEARS AGO...

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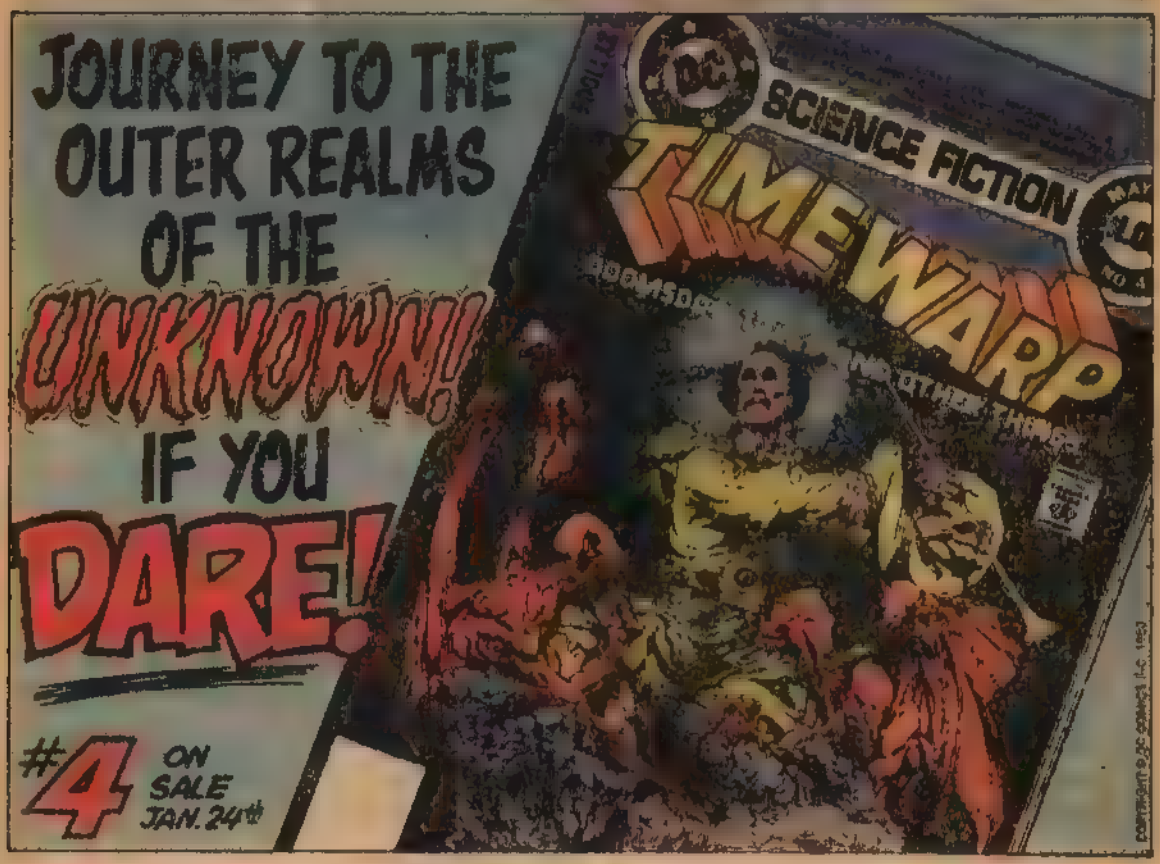

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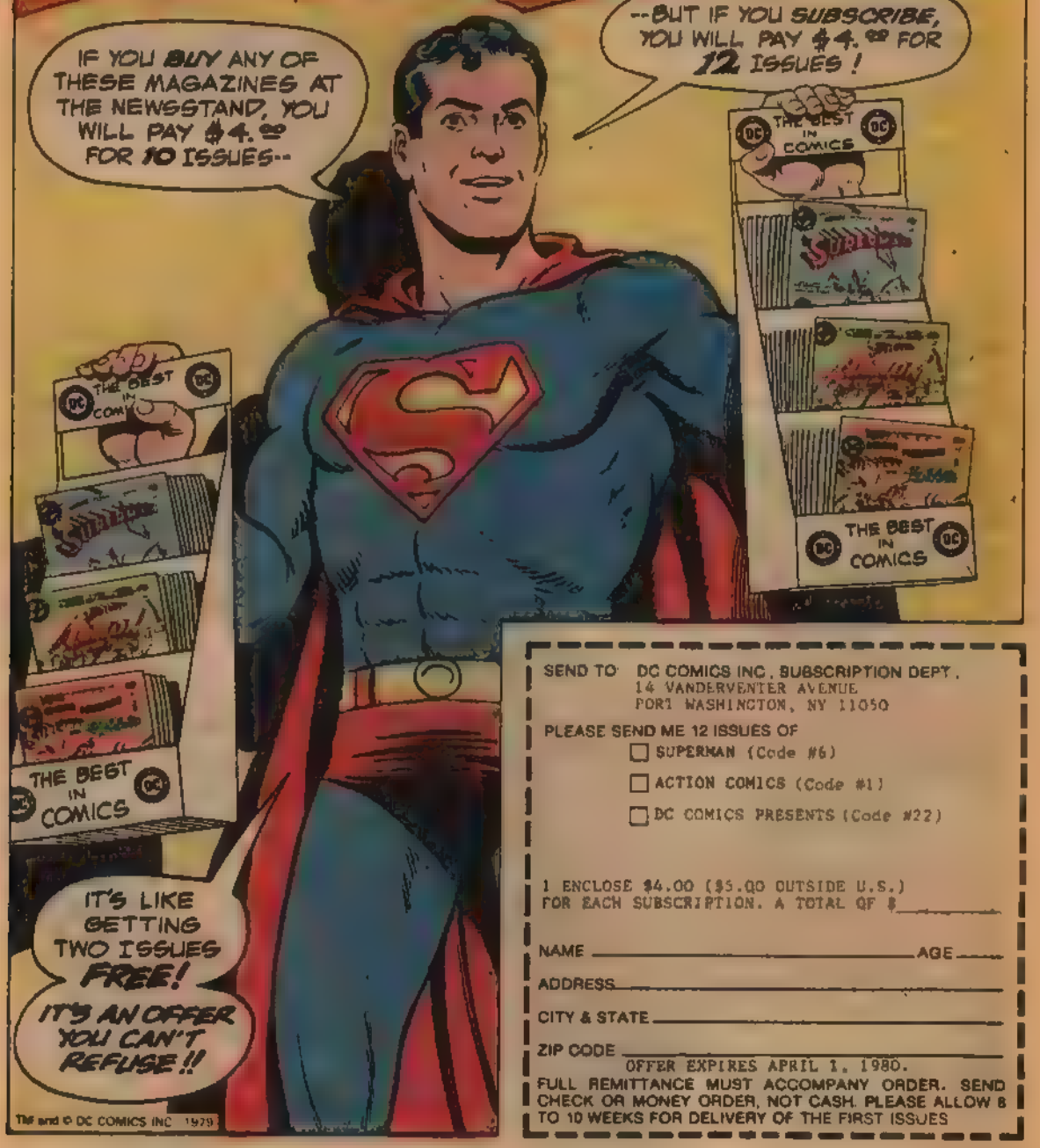
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...WHEN I WAS SUPERBOY--MAKING TIME-TRIPS BACK AND FORTH FROM SMALLVILLE TO THE 30TH CENTURY!*
*When SUPERBOY was still an active member of the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES! -- Julie
AS FOR JORLAN... I STILL THINKS IT'S TRACKING ME... SINCE MY ADOLESCENT SELF IS GIVING OFF BRAIN-WAVES IDENTICAL TO MY OWN! MY FOE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE I INSTANTLY "TRANSFORMED" FROM SUPERMAN TO SUPERBOY!
IT'S PROGRAMMED TO PRESERVE ALL CHILDREN... AND PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY SUPERMAN!
YET NOW CAN IT POSSIBLY KILL ME NOW -- WHEN IT BELIEVES I'VE BECOME ONE OF THE CHILDREN IT WAS CREATED TO PROTECT?
AN IMPOSSIBLE DILEMMA...
..CAUGHT BETWEEN EQUAL BUT OPPOSITE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS!
AS I HOPED, JORLAN WAS LEFT WITH ONLY ONE LOGICAL RECOURSE--IMMEDIATE SELF-DESTRUCTION!
GREAT STARS! WHAT WAS THAT?
I ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE.. BUT IT ALMOST LOOKED LIKE A BIG FURRY ANIMAL!
WHATEVER IT WAS -- THERE ISN'T ENOUGH OF IT LEFT TO FILL A LUNCH BOX!
MY LEGION BUDDIES WARNED ME ABOUT THE UNKNOWN PERILS OF THE TIME BARRIER..
...AND I GUESS THEY WERE RIGHT--THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT I MIGHT FLY ACROSS OUT HERE! I'D BETTER KEEP MY EYES OPEN!
A MORE ALERT BOY OF STEEL RESUMES HIS FLIGHT TO THE FAR FUTURE WHILE A CONTENTED MAN OF STEEL BIDS A SILENT FAREWELL TO HIS BOYHOOD--AND BEGINS THE LONG JOURNEY HOME!
17

NEXT ISSUE: THE MOST SHOCKING EVENT OF SUPERMAN'S CAREER--AND THE HAPPIEST!

"The MIRACULOUS RETURN of JONATHAN KENT!"

ON SALE FEB 28! IT'S A DATE!

Dear Editor

Re: *ACTION* #501 ("The Mystery of the Mild-Mannered Superman").

First reaction: Huh? This isn't Curt Swan! Now that that has been settled by a quick flip to the letters page, on to the story.

For years, people have been talking about the *Superman*/Clark Kent dichotomy (there's that word again). Now someone has finally stumbled onto another one—namely, how Clark manages to hold down a job while being such a klutz. I like it!

Skipping the space stuff, we are treated to a psychiatric plot by Bartlett and Edge. Pages 8 & 9 were fantastic. "Oh? Whatever can you mean?" I have a sneaking suspicion that not only does Lois know Clark is *Superman*, but *he* knows *she* knows, and the two of them are quietly stringing the rest of us along.

Back to space stuff. *Superman's* way of getting around the fear conditioning was very good. And who knows? Maybe you really will make a new man out of Clark Kent!

Barbara Cummings
1413 E. Culver
Phoenix, AZ 85006

You aren't the only reader who came away convinced Lois knows Clark's secret. However, others were certain she didn't know. We'd say that pins it down as a definite maybe!—ENB

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Dear ENB:

Issue #501 is what I would call a breather. Not that it wasn't a good story; it just wasn't a great story, and I expect great stories, at least, from any *Superman* writer. This is the kind of sleeper I should have prepared myself for after such a triumphant issue as #500.

I could not believe the Revenge Squad! I thought these aliens were supposed to be very tough characters who are constantly seeking revenge on *Superman* for thwarting their plans to take over peaceful worlds during his *Superboy* days. *ACTION* 501 made them look like a bunch of intergalactic high school prankstars. Having *Superman* react to stress in a Clark Kent manner was a fine idea, but the way it was executed seems more in Mxyzptlk's league than the Superman Revenge Squad's.

There were touches I did like. I enjoyed seeing Lois and Lana working on Clark, trying to make him look like *Superman*. The way *Superman* handled the situation by turning it into something the ham in Clark could face, via cameras, was excellent. I liked the last page, with a *Superman*-costumed Clark emerging from the spacecraft to be fussed over by the two ladies.

So. Did I like it, or didn't I? 'Sawright.

Oh, Schaffenberger did a good job on the art, but I will be glad to see the great Curt Swan back next issue. I found D'Angelo's coloring fantastic, I could look at page 4 all day.

Barbara Long
Rt. 3, Box 161
Blue Springs, MS 38828

Say—if we were sure a few million other people felt as you do, we might be able to make a bundle by turning it into a poster!—ENB

Dear Editor:

After so many years, I am still amazed that any writer can take an old subject like the *Superman*-Clark dichotomy (sorry, it's the only word I can think of) and concoct an entertaining and fascinating new story about it. But Cary Bates did so rather simply. As with his other recent successes, Cary got back to basics by letting the original idea of *Superman* and Clark provide inspiration.

The premise that someone should get it into his head to try and "reform" the meek and mild Clark has been done before, but this psychological play was a natural. From it Cary was able to derive both humor and insight into *Superman* and Clark and their relationships with Lois Lane. The scenes of Lois and Lana trying to transform Clark were hilarious as well as surprisingly poignant once Lois was left alone with him. Momentarily, she subconsciously saw Clark and *Superman* as one. It was almost tragic to see these two so close to realizing happiness, yet blinded by surface appearances.

On the action side of the coin was the return of the Superman Revenge Squad, whose scheme was the perfect antithesis of that cooked up by the Galaxy brass. This added even more humor to the proceedings, and Cary characterized *Superman* as a hero with a great deal of self-control. I wasn't completely satisfied with the on-camera solution to *Superman's* dilemma, but it led to a delightful conclusion where Clark displayed a pumped-up ego, much to Lois and Lana's delight. And finally I was convinced Cary has hit his stride permanently, so we can expect brilliance like this for a long time to come.

Tony Edwards
454 N. Formosa Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Want more proof? Our BEST OF DC Digest #6 will feature the top stories of 1979! There are ten of them, chosen by a vote of the editors—and four are by Cary Bates!—E. Nelson Bridwell

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(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: ACTION COMICS
1A. Publication No.: 004480
2. Date of Filing: October 1, 1979
3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly
3A. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
3B. Annual Subscription Price: $6.00
4. Location of Known Office of Publication: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
6. Names and Complete Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Editor: Jenette Kahn, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Managing Editor: Joe Orlando, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
7. Owner: DC Comics Inc., wholly owned by Warner Communications, Inc., a publicly held company, both at 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None
9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates: Not Applicable
10. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
10A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	338,646	356,093
10B. Paid Circulation 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	166,943	172,335
10B. Paid Circulation 2. Mail Subscriptions	159,885	172,335
10C. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	326,828	344,670
10D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means. Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies	1,043	1,408
10E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)	327,871	346,078
10F. Copies Not Distributed 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	10,775	10,015
2. Return from News Agents	1,000	1,000
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EXTRA DAILY PLANET EXTRA

VOLUME 60 ISSUE 4 WEEK OF JANUARY 21, 1980 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR LYNNE GELFER: PRODUCTION

FLASH SPEEDS INTO DIGEST

BLUE RIBBON SPECIAL #2 FEATURES SCARLET SPEEDSTER

(Central City)—It's a return to the early days of the career of *The Flash* when *DC SPECIAL BLUE RIBBON DIGEST* #2 hits the stands the week of February 11th. Editor Len Wein has put together 100 pages of the best adventures of the Scarlet Speedster and his cast of supporting characters.

You'll see *The Flash* team-up with *Green Lantern* in "Captives of the Cosmic Ray" You'll see the Scarlet Speedster and *Elongated Man* as prisoners of *Captain Boomerang's* "Space-Boomerang Trap". You'll thrill to the "Doomward Flight of the Flashes" as our hero is joined by his Earth-2 counterpart. And you'll find your heart racing as you read how *Flash* stops "Robberies by Magic", becomes "The One-Man Justice League", and takes a back seat as "Kid Flash Meets the Elongated Man"

It's a digest of classic super-speed stunts and fabulous fastness that you won't want to miss!

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: How did *Superdog, Supercat, Supermonkey* and *Superhorse* get their powers?—Kevin Shelton. *A*: Krypto and Beppo are from Krypton and gain their powers from Earth's yellow sun and lesser gravity. Comet was a centaur given powers by Circe. And Streaky was an Earth-cat exposed to an element created by *Supergirl*.

Q: Does *Apache Chief* from the *Super Friends* TV show appear in any of your comics?—Ire Millstone. *A*: No.

Q: How much is *DYNAMIC CLASSICS* #1 worth?—Bob Holum. *A*: 150 in good condition.

Q: Can you reprint *FLASH* #105 for its original price of 10¢?—Dick Thompson. *A*: We can't print *anything* for 10¢ any more.

Q: Will *Black Canary* be teaming up with *Superman*?—Laura Thompson. *A*: Watch for them together in an upcoming issue of *DC COMICS PRESENTS*.

SUPERMAN AND ELONGATED MAN FACE ALIEN EPIDEMIC

(Metropolis)—Clark Kent sits down at his typewriter to do a hot story and the *Elongated Man*, deathly ill, slithers out of the machine. What is happening and can the Man of Steel learn the answers in time to stop "The Alien Epidemic"? Gerry Conway, Joe Staton and Frank Chiaramonte provide the startling answers when *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #21 goes on sale the week of February 11th.

Q: How were *Cosmic Boy, Shrinking Violet, Wildfire* and *Shadow Lass* able to speak Kryptonese in *SUPERBOY & THE LEGION* #256?—Tony Potter. *A*: They must have learned it during their training.

Q: How about a mini-series about the *Green Lantern Corps*?—Lee Anderson. *A*: Watch for them in *GREEN LANTERN* #'s 130-132.

Q: When did the *Pied Piper* first appear?—Bruce Bender. *A*: In *FLASH* #106.

Q: Can the Earth-2 *Superman* fly or not? I've seen conflicting answers.—Joe Dantas. *A*: He can.

HEMBECK
GOT THAT NEW DISCO RECORD I ASKED YOU TO MAKE?
I'LL PLAY IT FOR YOU, CHIEF!
THAT'S AWFUL!!
BUT I GOT PERRY WHITE JUST LIKE YOU SAID..
PERRY WHITE?!? YOU IDIOT--I SAID BARRY WHITE!!
DON'T MAUL ME, CHIEF...

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11th

ALL-OUT WAR #5—The *Viking Commando* must protect "The War's Most Shocking Target" by Robert Kanigher and George Evans; the *Black Eagle* vows "The Enemy Must Not Die" by Kanigher, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal; and *Force 3* must "Kill a Nazi Nightmare" by Kanigher and Jerry Grandenetti. Plus: "The Civilizing of M'Kate" by Archie Goodwin and Rico Rival and "Captain Drury's Sacred Ship" by Carl Wessler and John Calnan.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #178—*J'onn J'onzz* is back, battling *Despero* in a fight he can't possibly win in "The Chess-Master of Mars" by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin.

SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #24—George Kashdan and Fred Carrillo get a "Second Chance to Die"; Laurie Sutton, Mike Nasser and Vince Colletta attend a "Nightfeast"; and Elliot St. Maggin and Rubeny invent "An Umbrella For All Seasons"

SUPERMAN #347—A nuclear power plant will melt down after it's sabotaged by "The Sleeper Out of Time" in this Gerry Conway/Jose Luis Garcia Lopez collaboration.

WONDER WOMAN #267—*Wonder Woman* battles the Cartel as *Animal Man* returns in "The Man Who Walked With Beasts" by Gerry Conway, Jose Delbo and Vince Colletta.

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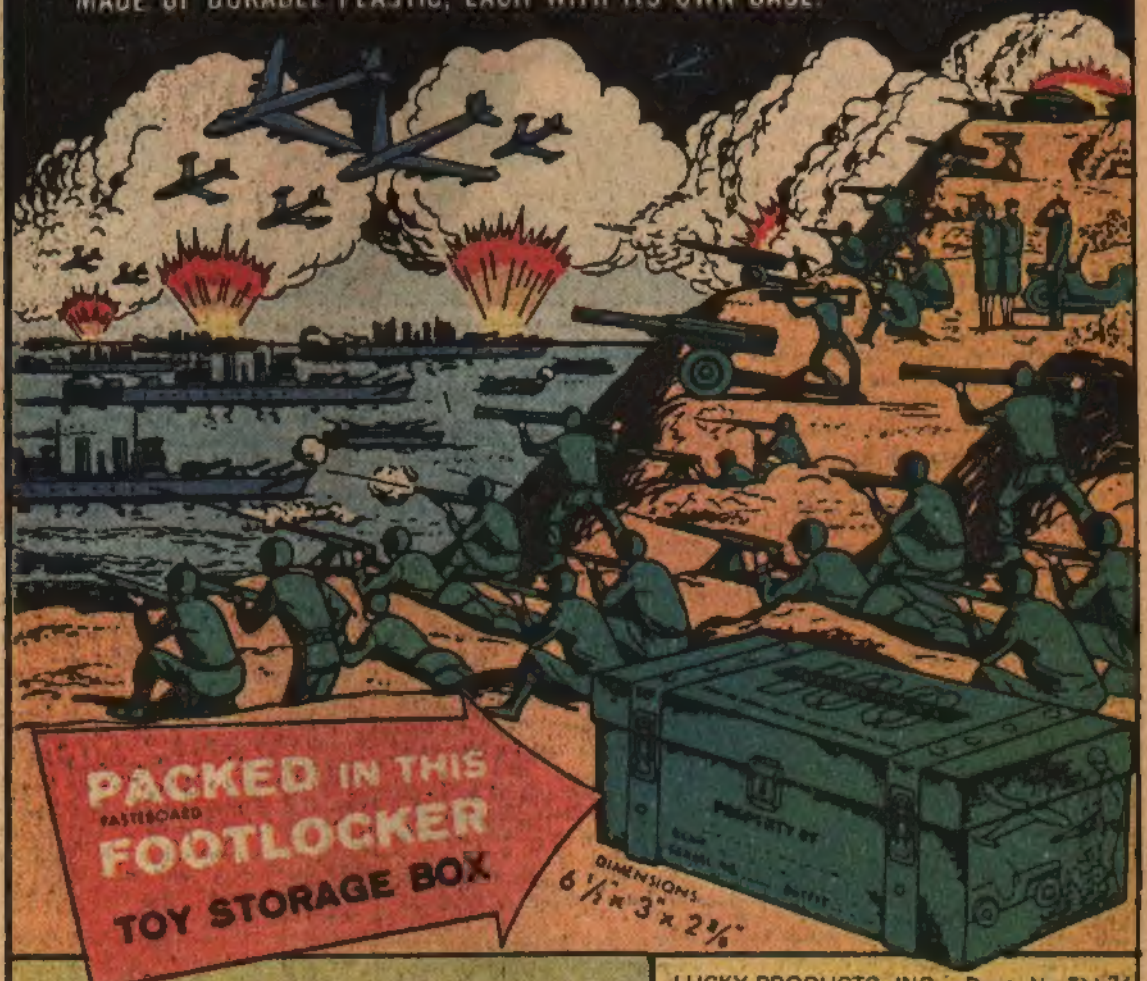

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